



Tanya D. Lane
Town Manager

TOWN OF NEWINGTON

131 CEDAR STREET
NEWINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06111

MAYOR ROY ZARTARIAN

MINUTES

NEWINGTON TOWN COUNCIL
L101 – Lower Level
7:00 P.M.

October 25, 2016

Mayor Zartarian called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL

Councilor Anest
Councilor Budrejko
Councilor DelBuono
Councilor Klett
Councilor Manke
Councilor Marocchini
Councilor Nagel
Councilor Serra
Mayor Zartarian

Staff Attendees:

Tanya Lane, Town Manager
Jaime Trevethan, Asst. to the Town Manager

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor DelBuono moved to accept the agenda and the motion was seconded by Councilor Manke. The motion passed 9 – 0.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL (In Person/Via Telephone: 860-665-8736)

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: Ms. Lyons noted talk on Facebook about eliminating the leaf collection program and urged the Council not to do so. She also reminded residents about the bulk waste pickup program, available through the highway department.

V. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS ON PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Councilor Nagel remarked that the leaf program is very important. Mayor Zartarian stated that he will disseminate information later regarding the cost of the leaf removal program per household.

VI. CONSIDERATION OF OLD BUSINESS

A. Ordinance Amendment: Chapter 8, Boards, Commissions, Committees and Bureaus (Disband Committee on Community Safety)

Mayor Zartarian indicated that this is the next step of the process to eliminate the Committee on Community Safety. He stated that the duties of the Committee have largely been taken over by the Police Community Council.

Councilor DelBuono moved the following:

INTRODUCTION:

I hereby introduce for the Town Council's consideration proposed amendments to the Town of Newington Code of Ordinances, Chapter 8, Boards, Committees, Commissions and Bureaus by repealing Chapter 8, Article XII, Committee on Community Safety, a copy of which has been filed with the Clerk of the Council.

Introduced by: Councilor DelBuono

RESOLVED:

The Town Council, in accordance with CGS §7-157(b), hereby authorizes the Town Clerk to publish a summary of the proposed Ordinance to Repeal "Chapter 8, Boards, Committees, Commissions and Bureaus, Article XII, Committee on Community Safety."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

That a Public Hearing be held on November 22, 2016 at 6:50 p.m. in consideration of proposed amendments to the Town of Newington Code of Ordinances, Chapter 8, Boards, Committees, Commissions and Bureaus.

Motion seconded by Councilor Anest. Motion passed 9-0.

B. AMR Agreement

Mayor Zartarian noted the improvement in American Medical Response's (AMR) performance in recent months, in part due to the additional equipment assigned to the Town.

Councilor Nagel moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby authorizes the Town Manager to execute an agreement between the Town of Newington and American Medical Response (AMR) for professional ambulance services, said agreement shall be effective through June 30, 2019.

Motion seconded by Councilor Serra.

Councilor Marocchini thanked Attorney Palermino and those involved with this complicated issue.

Motion passed 9-0.

C. Consideration of Cancelling the November 8, 2016 Regular Town Council Meeting

Mayor Zartarian said the Council was considering cancelling the November 8 meeting due to the Presidential election, as has been done in the past.

Councilor Anest moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That the Newington Town Council hereby alters its meeting schedule by canceling its regular meeting scheduled for November 8, 2016.

Motion seconded by Councilor Nagel. Motion passed 9-0.

VII. TAX REFUNDS (Action Requested)

Councilor DelBuono moved the following:

RESOLVED:

That property tax refunds in the amount of \$2,025.28 are hereby approved in the individual amounts and for those named on the "Requests for Refund of an Overpayment of Taxes," certified by the Revenue Collector, a list of which is attached to this resolution.

The motion was seconded by Councilor Serra. Motion passed 9-0.

VII. WRITTEN/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE TOWN MANAGER, OTHER TOWN AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS, OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND OFFICIALS AND THE PUBLIC

Town Manager Lane indicated that she attend an MDC budget workshop in which members expressed concern about the potential impending bankruptcy for the City of Hartford. She stated that that other MDC member towns could face an increase in annual dues to MDC should the bankruptcy occur and indicated that Newington's share could be as much as \$1.5 million. Town Manager Lane indicated that she will attend an additional meeting on the topic this coming Friday. Mayor Zartarian stated that MDC's credit rating has dropped one level due to the situation in Hartford and indicated that the Town will be kept informed of the situation.

IX. COUNCIL LIAISON/COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Budrejko reported on a recent meeting of the Economic Development Commission:

- Requests for information have been sent to various developers for input on the former National Welding site. This is intended to collect ideas only.
- A high-end boutique fitness center has submitted an application to open at Best Market Plaza.
- Wood-n-Tap has held a soft opening at its new Newington location and will officially open in early November.
- The Chamber of Commerce and Andy Brecher will hold an Economic Development Breakfast at Stew Leonard's on October 27, 2016 at 7:30 a.m.

**X. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – IN GENERAL (In Person/Via Telephone: 860-665-8736)
(3 MINUTE TIME LIMIT PER SPEAKER ON ANY ITEM)**

Rose Lyons, 46 Elton Drive: Ms. Lyons noted that there is a State housing rehab grant for eligible homeowners to improve or make repairs to their homes and stated that information can be obtained through the Town Planner's office. She also noted that Election Day is coming up and urged residents to vote.

Michael Fox, 1901 Main Street: Mr. Fox stated that Councilor DelBuono may have some information about the upcoming Veterans Day ceremony. He also noted the Registrars' of Voters hard work for the upcoming election and urged residents to vote.

Kathleen McWilliams, new Hartford Courant reporter, introduced herself to the Town Council.

Marie Fox, 1901 Main Street (via telephone), Mrs. Fox, Registrar of Voters, updated the Council on the status of voter registration and absentee ballots for the upcoming election. She stated that there has been an average of 50 new voters registered online or in person per day. Mrs. Fox noted that absentee ballots are available in the Town Clerk's office and indicated that there is information related to voter registration, absentee ballots and the elections on the Town website. She stated that the Registrar's office has been very busy preparing for the election, testing equipment and working very hard to ensure that each vote is accurately counted. She also indicated that handicapped-accessible voting along with curbside voting will be available to those who need it this year. Mrs. Fox explained the process involved with curb side voting and indicated that those who wish to utilize the service should contact the Moderator at their designated polling location.

XI. REMARKS BY COUNCILORS

Councilor DelBuono noted that the annual Veterans Day Ceremony will be held at November 11 at 10:00 in Town Hall; details will be posted on the Town website when they become available. She also noted the passing of Victor Dydyn, a Town veteran involved with the American Legion.

Councilor Anest noted that there will be an Election Day food/personal item drive to benefit the Human Services Department's food bank.

Councilor Klett indicated that the State's grant program for homeowners mentioned by Ms. Lyons is available but noted that Newington is not listed on the program website. She also requested that the entire Council receive the email regarding the per-household cost of the leaf collection program. Councilor Klett urged residents to vote in the upcoming election.

Councilor Manke thanked the Police Department for its recent presentation on active shooters.

Councilors Klett and Anest mentioned a fundraiser for Human Services in which Josh Shulman, Mayor Zartarian, Councilor Marocchini and two other Councilors will receive buzz cuts if fundraising goals are met.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Marocchini moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m. and was seconded by Councilor Nagel. The motion passed 9 – 0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jaime Trevethan
Asst. to the Town Manager